

HONORING JIM KNIGHT OF EAST  
CHICAGO, INDIANA

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 20, 2002*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sincerity and pride that I wish to honor the late Jim Knight of East Chicago, Indiana. His dedicated service to the City of East Chicago and to the entire Northwest Indiana community until his unfortunate death in May, 1998, has resulted in the city dedicating the new East Chicago Public Safety Building in his name. I had the privilege of knowing Jim for many years, and he was an inspiration to anyone who had the privilege to meet him.

Jim Knight was born in East Chicago on March 13, 1925 and spent his youth attending St. Mary's Elementary School and Catholic Central High School, which is now Bishop Noll Institute. After graduating from high school, Jim prepared himself for a future in the United States military by attending the U.S. Navy Sonar School in San Pedro, California. He continued his higher education by attending Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

After completing his studies, Jim served his country in the United States Navy from 1943 to 1945. His devoted service during World War II left Jim with a sense of purpose and accomplishment, so after the war he decided to re-enlist in the United States Army, where he actively served from 1949 to 1953, and then continued his military service in the reserves.

Although his experiences in the military took him to many places around the world, Jim Knight's heart was always in Northwest Indiana. He spent his time exploring many different occupations, including working as an ironworker for the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, earning his real estate license, serving as a Lake County Deputy Sheriff, and finally as the East Chicago City Controller, a position he held from 1972 until his death in 1998.

Jim Knight dedicated his personal and professional life to making East Chicago and Northwest Indiana a better place. He developed a love for politics while lobbying for the Lake County Fraternal Order of Police. He was also involved with many professional associations, including the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns, the Indiana Controllers' Association, the Lake County Convention and Visitor's Bureau, and the East Chicago Board of Public Works. Jim was also the President of the East Chicago Waterway Management District.

When he was not with his wife, June, their six children and twelve grandchildren, Jim spent much of his personal time as a member of various social clubs. He was the Past Exalted Ruler of East Chicago Elks Lodge #981, and was a member of the East Chicago Goodfellows Club, American Legion Post 369, and many others.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Jim Knight and commending the City of East Chicago for dedicating their new public safety building in the memory of an outstanding citizen of the East Chicago community. Jim devoted his time to improving the quality of life in his native city, as well as

Northwest Indiana, and his legacy will continue for generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL WALTER M.  
WASHABAUGH ON HIS RETIREMENT  
FROM THE UNITED  
STATES AIR FORCE

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 20, 2002*

Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force, I want to recognize Colonel "Mark" Washabaugh for his 30 years of dedicated service to our country. In his most recent assignment he serves as the Chief, Inquiries Division, Office of Legislative Liaison. He manages, on behalf of the Department of the Air Force, all constituent inquiries from the White House, Office of the Vice President, Members of Congress and State/local governments.

Colonel Washabaugh began his distinguished Air Force career with the Reserve Officers Training Corps at the University of Maryland and was commissioned in 1972. He graduated from St. Anne's Academy, Ft. Smith, Arkansas. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in zoology/biology from the University of Maryland in 1972 and a Master of Science degree in systems management from the University of Southern California in 1985. He also attended Squadron Officers School and Air Command and Staff College.

His first assignment was as an Administration Officer for the 801st Radar Squadron at Malmstrom AFB, Montana. Following this assignment he was Commander of the Headquarters Squadron at Kingsley Field, Oregon. His next assignment took him to Osan AB, Republic of Korea where he served as the Executive Officer for the Deputy Commander for Resources, 51st Composite Wing (Tactical); followed on as Wing Executive Officer and then as Aide to the Commander 314th Air Division. Colonel Washabaugh returned to the continental United States as the Program Officer, Directorate of Operations and Readiness, Headquarters United States Air Force. His next assignment took him to MacDill AFB, Florida, where he served as Chief of Protocol for the United States Central Command. In 1983, he returned to Headquarters U.S. Air Force and served as the Chief of International Programs for Southern Europe. In 1986 he entered the Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell AFB, Alabama, as a student. Upon graduation he became Chief of Protocol, Headquarters U.S. European Command at Patch Barracks, Germany. In 1989 he returned to the continental United States as Chief of Branch 1 in the Office of Legislative Liaison, Headquarters U.S. Air Force. His next assignment was at the Air Education and Training Command at Randolph AFB, Texas as the Chief of Communications and Strategic Information Planning. He returned to the DC area to serve as Chief of the Business Systems Division for the Air Force Communications and Information Center. He was assigned to his present position in 1999.

Colonel Washabaugh's military awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with an oak leaf cluster, Meri-

torious Service Medal with five oak leaf clusters and the Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster.

IN HONOR OF BRENDA E. PERRY-  
FELDER

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 20, 2002*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Brenda E. Perry-Felder in recognition of her dedication and commitment to her family, her community and her church.

Brenda E. Perry was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1940. Brenda attended Our Lady of Victory Catholic School, and then went on to become one of the first African-Americans to attend Bishop McDonald's Catholic High School. She has spent her life caring for others. After graduating from high school, Brenda attended Kings County Hospital Nursing School. As a registered nurse, she held several positions at a number of different hospitals, including St. Mary's and Greenpoint Hospital.

Brenda has been married to her husband, Cleon, for almost 25 years. Together they have three children, Derick, Ronda, and Kimberly as well as one adopted daughter, Brenda, and a stepson, Cleon Jr. She is also the grandmother of 13 and great grandmother of two. While raising her children, Brenda decided to go back to school to become a teacher. She was a member of the first class of Medgar Evers College earning a Bachelor of Science degree in education. She also attended Barber-Scotia College. She went on to receive a Master's in Education from Brooklyn College followed by a Master's in Supervision/Administration from City College and a Principal Leadership Certification from Howard University.

Brenda was an outstanding dedicated teacher, principal and advocate for children. She worked as a teacher in the Catholic school system at Our Lady of Victory and New Bed-Stuy Catholic Schools. She went on to work for the New York City Board of Education in District 23 where she remained for over 25 years. One of her greatest career accomplishments occurred early this year. After a great deal of hard work, just as she was retiring as its school principal, Brenda was able to have PS 73 removed from the SURR list.

Brenda has received countless honors for her hard work and dedication. In 1986, 1992, and 1995, she received the "Outstanding Leadership Award from District 23"; in 1991, she received the "Key Women of America Education Award"; in 1993, 1998, and 1999 she was given the Rachel Jean Mitchell Award for her Outstanding Service to Students in District 23; in 1994, she was honored with the Malcom X-Betty Shabazz Award for Outstanding Service to Children; in 1997, she also received the Barbara Scotia College Alumni Award for Outstanding Service to Children; and in 1999, the New York City School system acknowledged her career achievements with the Chancellor's Leadership Award as Principal of the Year.

Brenda E. Perry-Felder has committed herself as a parent, student, and teacher to hard work and outstanding accomplishments. Her

motto is, "If I can help somebody along the way then my living will not have been in vain." Mr. Speaker, Brenda E. Perry-Felder has helped many and her life is not in vain. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving this recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

#### HONORING DAVID SULENTA

#### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor David Sulenta for receiving the 2002 Fire Personnel of the Year Award from the Sanger District Chamber of Commerce.

David joined the Sanger Fire Department October 30, 1979. He began as a Firefighter/EMT and was promoted to Firefighter/Specialist soon after. Aside from Mr. Sulenta's contributions as an outstanding person, he has initiated many programs for the Sanger Fire Department. He brought about the routine testing of the self-contained breathing apparatus and he developed specifications for the new exhaust system which removes diesel exhaust fumes from the apparatus floor when fire engines drive out of the firehouse. Moreover, David was active in obtaining equipment for new fire engines. His achievements and contributions have not gone unrecognized by his peers. The officers of the department have selected him as "Employee of the Quarter" many times and this is the second time he has been honored as the Fire Personnel of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. David Sulenta for his contributions to the Sanger Fire Department. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking David for his active involvement within the community and wishing him many more years of continued success.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO REVEREND F. BRANNON JACKSON IN CELEBRATION OF 36TH YEAR IN MINISTRY

#### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and esteem that I wish to congratulate Reverend F. Brannon Jackson, who is celebrating his 36th year in the ministry. As the congregation at Calvary Institutional Church will attest, this praise is well deserved. Having overcome many obstacles in his life, Reverend Jackson serves as a role model for those wishing to start their life afresh and to have a positive influence over the lives of others.

To the benefit of Northwest Indiana, Reverend Jackson's arrival in Gary was, in his own words, "God's will." In 1946, after serving in the military, he planned to visit his cousins in the city while en route to San Francisco. Once here, this young man from Mobile, Alabama abandoned his plans to travel west, for he felt strangely drawn to this area, in spite of its differences from his native state.

Until he received the call to the ministry, Reverend Jackson openly admits his early years in Gary were spent enjoying the frivolities in life. At the age of 22, eager to set himself on the path of success, he offered his skills as a welder to Gebraltar Insurance Company; later he secured other positions, first at Reliable Cab, and then at the Budd Plant. It was while at the Budd Plant that he accepted his call to the ministry. Incidentally, this call came disguised as a church hymn: while playing poker with friends, Reverend Jackson became agitated when a man began walking room to room singing these songs. He followed the man, intending to ask him to quiet down, but instead discovered the verses sung stirred a passion within his soul that has yet to be quelled. Under the direction of Reverend L.J. Harris and the New Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church, Reverend Jackson freed himself from the entanglements complicating his life and set his feet upon this path of righteousness.

Knowing his congregation would benefit from a minister well versed in spiritual, as well as secular affairs, Reverend Jackson began to challenge himself intellectually. He attended Chicago Baptist Institute and completed his GED, but his hunger for this intellectual development remained insatiable. Bolstered by his renewed faith in God and in himself, Reverend Jackson enrolled in Indiana Christian University, where he attained not only a bachelor's degree, but successfully earned a master's degree in religious arts.

Reverend Jackson's devotion to the Baptist Church is best reflected by the distinguished positions he has held and by the awards he has garnered during his 36 years in the ministry. He served as the president of the General Missionary Baptist state convention and the Indiana state convention. He lent his religious expertise to the National Baptist Convention, where he participated as an active board member. The culmination of his many years of dedicated service to the Baptist Church was achieved in 1998, when Indiana Governor Frank O'Bannon honored him with the Sagamore of Wabash Award, the highest award the governor can bestow upon a citizen.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Reverend F. Brannon Jackson as he observes his 36th year in the ministry. His commitment to his faith, as well as his selfless contributions to his congregation, is worthy of our commendation. Reverend Jackson is one of many extraordinary examples of leadership and integrity characteristic of the citizenry of Northwest Indiana.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for Roll Call No. 65, on approving the journal. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for Roll Call No. 66, H. Res. 368, Commending the Pentagon Renovation Program. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for Roll Call No. 67, H.R. 2509, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing Security Printing Amendments Act of 2001. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for Roll Call No. 68, H.R. 2804, the James R. Browning United States Courthouse Designation Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

#### A TRIBUTE TO CATHERINE WATTS-COLEMAN

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Catherine Watts-Coleman in recognition of her contribution to her family and her community.

Catherine, a native of North Carolina, relocated to Brooklyn with her parents and two siblings after receiving her high school diploma from the Morningside High School in Statesville, North Carolina. Upon arriving in Brooklyn, Catherine enrolled in the Central School for Practicing Nursing. After graduating, she went on to work at the Harlem Eye and Ear Hospital, Lutheran Hospital, and Sheephead Bay Nursing Home.

In 1950, Catherine married the late Bryant Coleman and was blessed with two wonderful children, Wayne and Lance. In rearing her children, she became more active in the Brooklyn community. Her motto is "parents must be actively involved in the social, educational, and spiritual life of their children in order for them to grow up and become responsible contributing members of society."

Catherine grew up in a caring, loving and spiritual household and she continues to always put God first in her life. Her daily meditation includes the 23rd and 121st Psalms, and the 14th Chapter of St. John. With that commitment to her community, she continues to be a tithing member of her childhood church, the Church of the Living God in Statesville, North Carolina, and alternates weekly worship between Nazarene Temple and Faith Holy Churches in Brooklyn.

Today, Catherine is a happy retiree who continues to reach out and touch the lives of others by happily volunteering her time. One of her greatest joys is talking about her six grandchildren, Zuri, Maurice, Larissa, Lauren, Lance Jr., and Latrice. She is also proud of her daughter-in-laws, nieces, and nephews who are an integral part of her life.

Mr. Speaker, Catherine Watts-Coleman has devoted her life to serving her family and her community. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

#### HONORING DOUG PERRY

#### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Doug Perry, principal of El Capitan Middle School, for receiving a nomination for the Educator of the Year Award from the California League of Middle Schools.